

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13-16, 18-20, 22, 32 and 34-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Manabe et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) a dummy client device including a monitoring part for monitoring content of an utterance sent to a chat server from a client device.

The system of Manabe et al. includes a chat server and a plurality of user terminals connected to the chat server via a computer network. Each of the user terminals include a chat client and a corresponding status notification device 1. A keyword-detection module 2 is provided in the status notification device for acquiring from its corresponding chat client, remarks in the channel in which the chat client is participating (see Figs. 1 and 2, and col. 6, lines 36-38).

Thus, the keyword-detection module of a user terminal of Manabe et al. acquires remarks sent to the corresponding chat client from another user terminal. In contrast, the monitoring part of the present invention monitors the content of an utterance sent to the chat server from a client device, and not the remarks received by a chat client within the same user terminal as the keyword-detection module. For this reason, the present invention as described in independent claims 1, 34 and 35 are allowable over Manabe et al.

All the claims rejected under a number of §103 rejections depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable for the reasons given with respect to claim 1.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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